

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /092 W

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R 051108Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 478

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1647

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: RABIN ON US MILITARY SUPPLY TO EGYPT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DISTRIBUTED BY GOI PRESS OFFICER
OF STATEMENT BY PRIMIN RABIN MARCH 4 TO SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS CRITICIZING US INTENTION TO PROVIDE MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: TODAY WE READ, AND WE KNOW, THAT THE
ARAB COUNTRIES ARE RECEIVING ARMS MAINLY FROM THE SOVIET
UNION, BUT RECENTLY AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN THE ARMING
OF THESE COUNTRIES IS COMING TO THE FORE AND THAT IS--
THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S. HAS FOR YEARS BEEN SUPPLYING
ARMS TO JORDAN, AND IS CONTINUING TO SUPPLY ARMS TO
JORDAN. THE U.S. HAS BEEN SUPPLYING SAUDI ARABIA WITH
ARMS, AND IS INCREASING ARMS SUPPLIES TO THAT COUNTRY.
TODAY, WE ARE WITNESSING THE FIRST SIGNS OF POSSIBLE
ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT.

3. ISRAEL HAS TAKEN, AND CONTINUES TO TAKE, AN
UNEQUIVOCAL AND CLEARCUT STAND, NAMELY: TO TRY AND
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INFLUENCE THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE CAN ENGAGE
IN DIALOGUE TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPLY

ARMS TO ARAB COUNTRIES IN CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL, OR WHOSE ARMS AND ARMIES COULD, IN CASE OF WAR, BE TURNED AGAINST US. WE HAVE ACTED THUS IN THE PAST, AND NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFULLY, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT, IN THE SIX-DAY WAR, JORDAN FOUGHT ISRAEL WITH BRITISH AND AMERICAN ARMS, AND WE HAD TO FIGHT A JORDANIAN ARMY EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY BRITAIN AND THE U.S.A. THIS IS WHY ISRAEL WILL SPARE NO EFFORT, AND DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT THE ABSURD SITUATION IN WHICH THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BALANCE OF POWER--AND THE U.S. IS PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN THAT BALANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES--WOULD OBLIGE THE U.S. TO FOLLOW UP ARMS SUPPLIES TO THE ARABS WITH ARMS FOR ISRAEL, THUS TURNING THE UNITED STATES INTO A FACTOR ACCELERATING THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS RACE.

4. I CANNOT PROMISE THAT WE SHALL SUCCEED. BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT WE SHALL DO EVERYTHING IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT STRANGE SITUATION IN WHICH THE U.S. WOULD BECOME AN ACCELERATING FACTOR IN THE ARMS RACE, IN CONTRAST WITH THE ROLE IT HAS PLAYED UNTIL NOW-- WHICH WAS, TO BALANCE THE SOVIET EFFORT AT STEPPING UP THE ARMS RACE...END TEXT.
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